

"DARK HORROR" PART 5



280

DIGITAL EDITION

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SPAWN[®]





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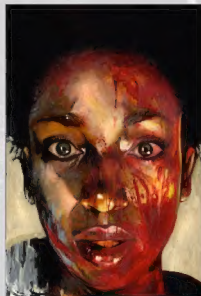
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SPAWN CREATED BY
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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN


Cyan confronts Al about the fact that he's Spawn. What Cyan can't comprehend is with all of his powers how he is unable to protect her. Al knows she is right and tries to assure her he's working on the situation. All of the sudden, a swarm of black crows comes barreling down out the sky, led by a ghost wielding a knife. Spawn pushes Cyan out of the way, but she becomes trapped by a demon. To escape, she uses her powers to transport and finds herself underwater and then in a desert. She finally transports herself to her host family, but something is terribly wrong. She comes face to face with an evil man who puts her and the family under a spell. They are unable to move and Cyan watches in horror as the entire family is killed right in front of her.

"SHE HASN'T TRIED TO TALK
IN OVER AN HOUR. PROBABLY
AFRAID. THAT'S GOOD."

"THIS... GHOST OR WHATEVER SHE
IS, NEEDS TO LEARN THAT IF THERE'S
NO MERCY FOR THE LIVING, THEN
THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY FOR
THE DEAD, EITHER."








"SHIZUMU MADE IT SO I COULDN'T
CLOSE MY EYES. BUT I DON'T
REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED, NOT
REALLY, LIKE MY MIND JUST WENT
SOMEWHERE ELSE.

"THEN, ALL OF A
SUDDEN I FELT THIS
DARK PRESSURE LIKE
THE BOTTOM OF
THE SEA."




"MY LIFE HAS ALWAYS
BEEN FILLED WITH
SHADOWS. THINGS NO
ONE SHOULD HAVE TO
SEE OR FEEL. AND ALL
OF THE THINGS I'D FELT
AND SEEN IN MY LIFE
CAME ROARING BACK.

"ALL OF IT! ALL THE PAIN
AND ANGER AND SHAME
THAT MEN LIKE THESE SHOVED
ON US... THAT SHOVED ON
ME IN MY LIFE...




"I TURNED IT ON THEM! EVERY
NEGATIVE EMOTION I'VE FELT,
I TURNED IT ON THEM!"

The main illustration shows a man in a dark suit and beard looking towards the right. In the foreground, another man in a dark suit is shown from the chest up, his head tilted back and mouth open, with blood dripping from his mouth. The background is a textured, yellowish-brown color with some faint, dark, tentacle-like shapes.

A woman with a large, dark afro hairstyle is looking directly at the viewer with a serious, intense expression. She is wearing a dark, high-collared garment. The background is a textured, mottled brown and yellow.

"REFLECTING BACK AT THEM, WHAT THEY SO CASUALLY DO TO US, AT TENFOLD THE INTENSITY. AND AS THEY BEGAN TO TREMBLE, THEY COULD SEE I HAD BECOME..."

...A 'BLACK MIRROR.'

A horizontal strip of a comic book panel. It shows a man and a woman in a close embrace. The man is on the left, looking towards the woman on the right. The background is a vibrant red and orange, suggesting a fire or a dramatic setting. The style is a detailed, textured illustration.

"AND FOR ONCE THEY KNEW WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE ONE OF THEIR OWN VICTIMS."


A horizontal strip of a comic book panel. It shows a man and a woman in a close embrace. The man is on the left, looking towards the woman on the right. The background is a vibrant red and orange, suggesting a fire or a dramatic setting. The style is a detailed, textured illustration.

CYAN..!

I'VE GOT THE GIRL!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

A horizontal strip of a comic book panel. It shows a man and a woman in a close embrace. The man is on the left, looking towards the woman on the right. The background is a vibrant red and orange, suggesting a fire or a dramatic setting. The style is a detailed, textured illustration.

"AFTER THEY TOOK YOKO, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING."



"THEN I WAS
SOMEWHERE ELSE.

"THAT SOMEWHERE
WAS A HOSPITAL.
THEY SAID I WAS
BLACKED OUT ON
FLOOR WHEN THEY
FOUND ME.

"AND AS I LAID
THERE ALL I COULD
THINK OF WAS; THEY
WERE ALL DEAD, THE
LITTLE BOY, YOKO'S
PARENTS, AND IT
TOOK ME TO A
PLACE I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO ESCAPE.

"A PLACE I'VE
BEEN TRYING
SO HARD TO
LET GO.

"UNCLE AL KNEW ALL THIS.
SO HE TOLD ME I HAD TO
GET OUT OF HERE, OUT
OF JAPAN. HE SAID HE'D
MADE A TRAGIC MISTAKE
BRINGING ME HERE TO
START WITH.



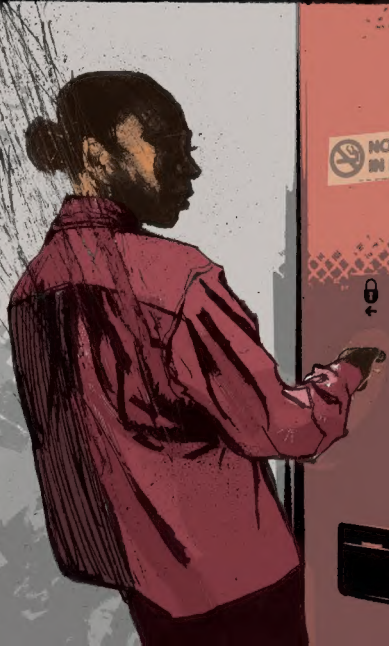
"HE COACHED ME WHAT TO SAY TO THE POLICE WHEN THEY ASKED THEIR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEAD BODIES AT YOKO'S. IT TOOK SOME TIME BUT EVENTUALLY THEY ACCEPTED MY STORY. I TOLD THEM NOTHING ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED... OR ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT I DID."

"AFTERWARDS THEY THANKED ME AND SAID I WAS VERY 'LUCKY.' IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT WHEN PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT DIE?"

"WHEN I WAS HEALTHY ENOUGH, AL TOOK ME TO THE AIRPORT AND PUT ME ON A PLANE."



"WHATEVER HE WAS PLANNING, I DIDN'T CARE. IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH. SO, WHEN THE LIGHT WENT ON THAT SAID PASSENGERS COULD GET UP AND GO TO THE BATHROOM, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DID."



"I'M SURE I CAUSED A SHIT STORM WHEN THE ATTENDANTS COULDN'T FIND ME."

NO SMOKING
IN LAVATORY





"EVERYTHING ELSE IN MY LIFE
HAS BEEN STOLEN. MY MOM. MY
INNOCENCE. EVERYTHING.

"AND I'LL SEE THEM
ALL DEAD BEFORE
I LET THEM THINK
ABOUT LAYING A
FINGER ON LITTLE
JAKE AND KATIE.
I WON'T LET THEM
TOUCH MY FAMILY.



NO.

I'M NOT
SCARED.



BUT
IT'S TIME
YOU BECAME
AFRAID OF
ME.



(YOKO?
WHERE IS
SHE?)



(MAYBE
YOU CAN'T TALK.
BUT YOU SURE AS
HELL KNOW HOW
TO WALK.)

"SHE STARTS HER
TREK. SHE'S GOING
TO SHOW ME WHERE
THEY TOOK YOKO."

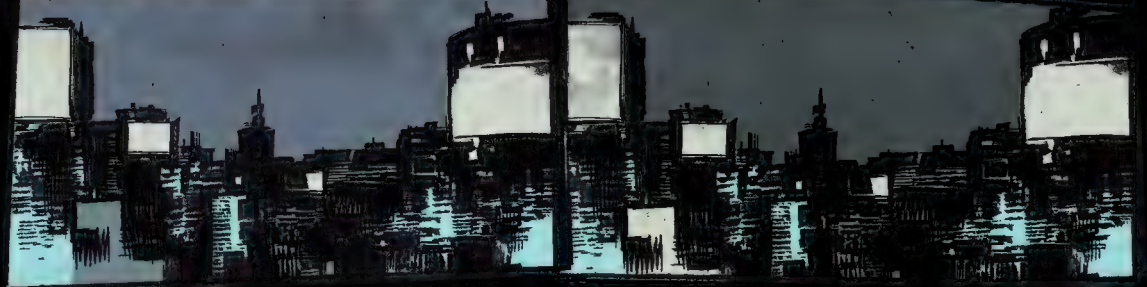
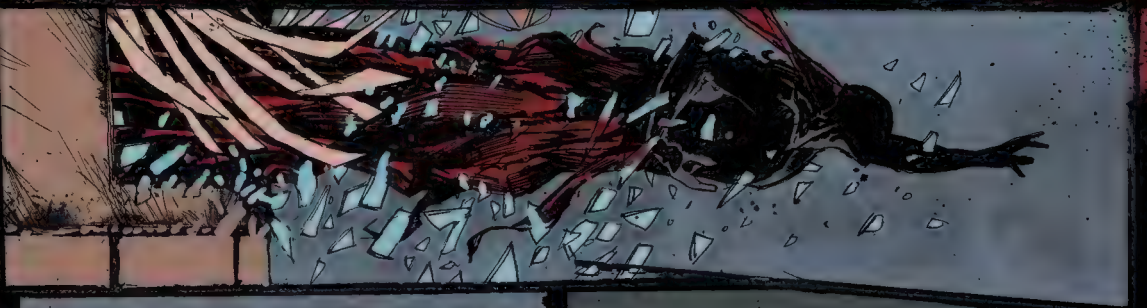
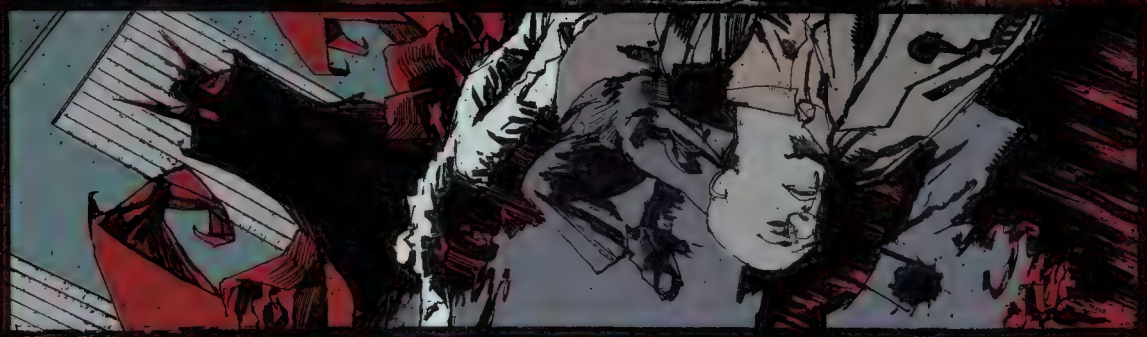
"AND I DON'T
CARE HOW
LONG IT TAKES
US TO GET
THERE."

人達の間屋敷本により
立入禁止
昭和四十四年四月一日
東京都立上野公園
管理事務所



"I WONDER WHAT UNCLE
AL'S DOING. HOPEFULLY,
IT'S SOMETHING USEFUL."

"SOMETHING
THAT
HURTS."



MR. O'S
OFFICE!
WHERE IS
IT?

(I
DON'T...)

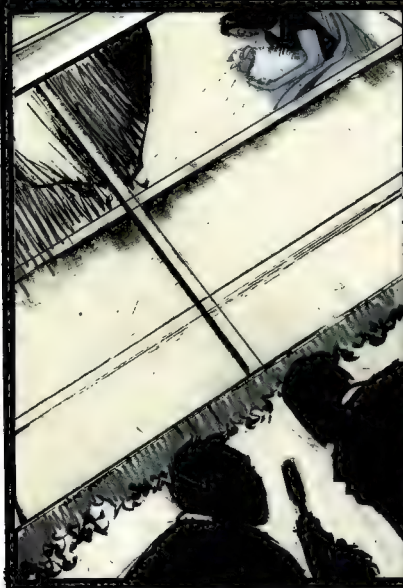
WRONG
ANSWER.

SNAP



"LATER, I FOUND OUT AL WENT BACK TO THE WOMAN HE HAD SAVED FROM SHIZUMU'S CLUB, BECAUSE HE KNEW THE YAKUZA TO BE 'PREDICTABLE' AT TIMES AND THEY WEREN'T GOING TO LET THIS WOMAN JUST WALK AWAY."

*See issue 278--Todd



"THE YAKUZA ALWAYS TIE UP THEIR LOOSE ENDS..."



"... AND THAT PREDICTABILITY PUT THEM RIGHT IN HIS TRAP."





«IS THIS EMERGENCY?
MY NAME IS SAYA.
SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS GOING
ON OUTSIDE MY BUILDING. THEY'RE
SCREAMING. IT SOUNDS... IT
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S GETTING
HURT! I CAN'T TELL.»

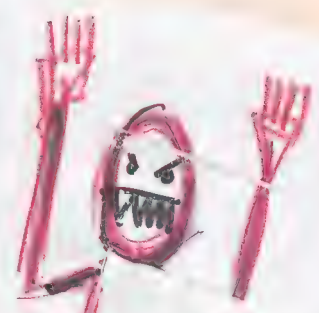
«WHAT? NO, I
DON'T KNOW. I DIDN'T
SEE ANYTHING. I'M IN MY
BATHROOM, HIDING. JUST
ME AND MY DOG, BUT I
JUST NEED YOU TO SEND
SOMEBODY. PLEASE,
HURRY!»

"I ALSO HEARD THE NOISES DIDN'T
LAST VERY LONG. BY THE TIME THE
POLICE ARRIVED THE DAMAGE HAD
ALREADY BEEN DONE."

"FOR ME THOUGH, I JUST
WANTED TO FIND YOKO.
THAT'S ALL. AND THIS
GHOST I WAS WITH, SHE
UNDERSTOOD I WASN'T
A THREAT TO HER. THAT'S
WHEN THINGS BEGAN TO
FALL INTO PLACE.

"THOUGH SHE COULDN'T
TALK SHE COULD DRAW,
AND WHAT SHE DREW
WERE CLUES TO HER
PAST. SHE WAS TRYING TO
TELL ME WHO SHE WAS."

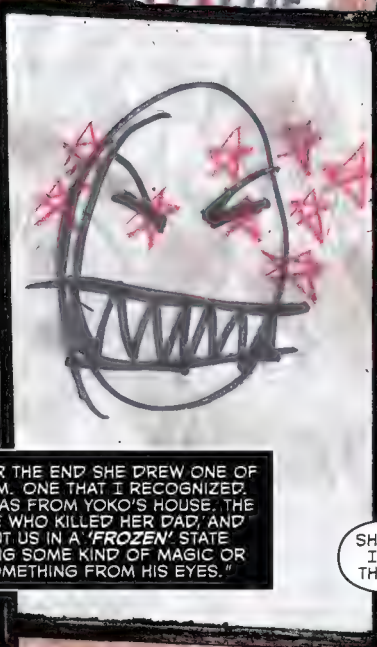




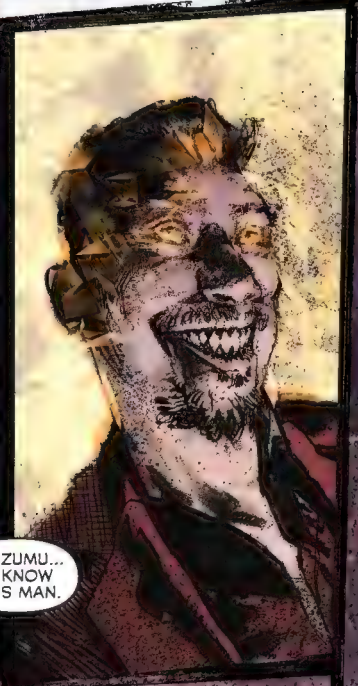
"FOR HOURS SHE SCRIBBLED AND SKETCHED AWAY. AND EACH PIECE BECAME ANOTHER PART IN A PUZZLE SHE WANTED ME TO SEE."



"I LEARNED THERE WAS A PET STORE OF SOME KIND, AND THE PEOPLE INSIDE IT KIDNAPPED KIDS AND ADULTS. SHE WAS ONE OF THEM. THEN SHE SHOWED ME THAT THEY KEPT HER IN A CAGE, LITERALLY. SHE WAS TREATED LIKE AN ANIMAL. WHO WERE THESE PSYCHOS THAT WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?"



"NEAR THE END SHE DREW ONE OF THEM. ONE THAT I RECOGNIZED. HE WAS FROM YOKO'S HOUSE. THE ONE WHO KILLED HER DAD, AND PUT US IN A 'FROZEN' STATE USING SOME KIND OF MAGIC OR SOMETHING FROM HIS EYES."

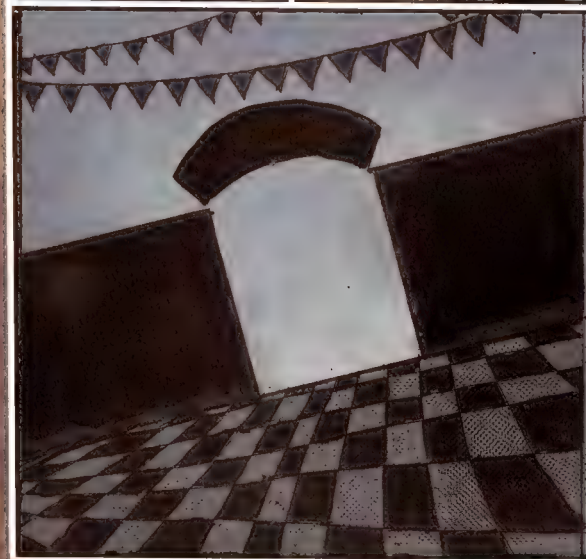
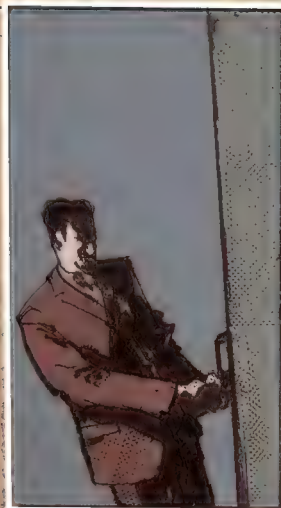


SHIZUMU...
I KNOW
THIS MAN.

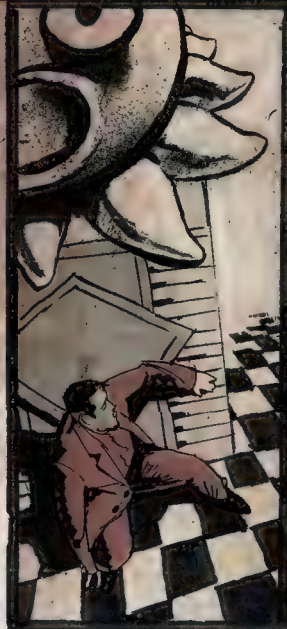
"SHIZUMA WAS
HIS NAME."



"I SAY 'WAS' BECAUSE
HE'S NOT ALIVE ANY
LONGER, AND TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH..."



"I DON'T GIVE A SHIT
HOW HE EVEN DIED."



WERE YOU IN THAT BUILDING?

WHAT'S THIS? A BUILDING?

WHEN? BEFORE OR AFTER THEY TOOK YOU TO THE PET SHOP?

AFTER? THEY BROUGHT YOU THERE AFTER?

COULD THAT BE THE SAME PLACE WHERE YOKO MIGHT BE?

IT IS, ISN'T IT?



<SOMEONE GET SHIZUMA ON THE PHONE! I WANT TO KNOW WHY HE'S NOT REPORTING BACK.>

<HE SAID HE HAD THINGS TO DO IN TOKYO.>

<SIR??>

<WE'VE GOT SOME CIVILIANS NEAR THE PERIMETER.>



I WILL LOOK.



<IT'S...>

<THE
AMERICAN
GIRL.>

<GO GET
HER, BUT **DON'T**
KILL HER. I KNOW
MANY PEOPLE
WHO WILL WANT
THIS ONE.>

"HER LAST DRAWING...
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT
IT MEANS. WHAT SHE'S
TELLING ME. MAYBE
BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN AT
THIS FOR SO LONG. WITH
NO FOOD OR REST.

LATER.



"MY BRAIN'S BARELY
FUNCTIONING. I HAVE TO
GET SOME SLEEP OR I'M
GOING TO PASS OUT."



<WELL NOW...
THIS EXPLAINS
A LOT. WE'LL NEED
TO BE MORE
CAREFUL WITH OUR
GHOST BY-
PRODUCTS NEXT
TIME.>



«COME
TO ME,
GHOST.»



NO!



tak!



Pfft!



SPAWNING GROUND

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MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

mcfarlane.com/spawningground
for your chance to win awesome prizes!

Spawn 280 Code Word: **NEWSUPERHERO**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

DARK HORROR PART 6 of 6
A NEW HERO PREMIERES!
Look for this exciting new character as she makes her heroic debut. Only ONE ISSUE left until the thrilling conclusion of "DARK HORROR!"

VELVET DEADLY CLASS **ROYAL CITY**
LAZARUS **EAST OF WEST** **I KILL GIANTS**
THE WALKING DEAD **I HATE FAIRYLAND**
KING CITY **SEX CRIMINALS**
KILL OR BE KILLED **RATQUEENS**
CURSE WORDS
SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**
MONSTRESS **CHEW** **KINGSMAN**
NOWHERE MEN
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY
DESCENDER **PAPER GIRLS**
OCTOPUS PIE WYTCHEs **SHUTTER**
TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS **BITCH PLANET**
SAGA **MOTOR CRUSH** **WAYWARD** **TREES**
THE AUTUMNLANDS
CRIMINAL
PLUTONA **LOW**
REVIVAL **NAILBITER**
CAMP MIDNIGHT
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MAGE **HINGES**
BLACK SCIENCE
PRETTY DEADLY
THE FADE OUT

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